



North
West
Water

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BJB/CH

12 May 1989

To: Members of the Regional Fisheries
Advisory Committee:
T A F Barnes (Chairman); J S Bailey;
R Bailey; A G R Brown; F Bunting;
J M Croft; P Ecroyd; J H Fell; W D Grove;
C Holland; B Irving; Dr F Martin;
P Neal; Dr Pugh-Thomas; J E Robinson

Dear Sir

Please attend a meeting of the REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
to be held at 2.15 pm on MONDAY 22 MAY 1989 at BEATHWAITE, LEVENS,
KENDAL for consideration of the following business.

Yours faithfully

W H CRACKLE

Secretary and Solicitor

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (previously circulated and approved by the Board on 13 March 1989).
3. Notes of Fisheries Liaison Meetings (a) South - 19 April 1989
(b) North - 24 April 1989
(c) Central - 28 April 1989
4. NORWADS meeting - 18 May 1989 (oral report).
5. Fishing Licence Duties - 1990.
6. Ombudsmans Investigations.
7. Prosecutions for Netting offences.
8. Lune and Wyre Net Limitation Order - Progress (oral report).
9. Eel Netting - River Ribble.
10. Fish Mortality Incident.
11. Fishing Licence Sales - 1988.
12. Catch Returns - 1988 (to be tabled).
13. Any other business.

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 1989

Present:

T A F Barnes (Chairman)

J S Bailey	J H Fell
R Bailey	C Holland
A G R Brown	B Irving
F Bunting	Dr F S Martin
J M Croft	P Neal
P Ecroyd	J B Robinson

Officers in attendance:

Dr C Harpley	NRA Regional Manager
C Newton	Regional Fisheries Manager
M Maitland	Regional Finance Manager
C Haggett	Charges & Tariffs Manager
B J Briggs	Senior Admin Officer

192 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from W D Grove, J B Oldfield and Dr M Pugh-Thomas.

193 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

In response to a question from Mr Brown, Mr Newton confirmed that all home based fisheries staff would remain in their present houses and retain their existing telephone numbers although their areas might change slightly under the NRA arrangements. Dr Harpley agreed to provide members with the names and addresses of fisheries staff throughout the region.

Mr Newton advised Mr Fell that the Authority had no immediate proposals for the installation of a fish counter on the river Leven but would include this item in the mid-term capital programme for implementation within the next five years.

Dr Harpley assured Mr Ecroyd that the limits set by the Authority on abstractions of water from Croglin Beck for a new trout farm would maintain and protect downstream fisheries.

In response to a question from Mr Fell, Mr Barnes said that the Authority was proceeding with proposals for a new outfall on the Fylde Coast in order to remove sewage from the beaches to, comply with EEC regulations by 1992. Although a computer model had shown that the Authority's proposals were not only the cheapest but also the best environmental answer to the problem, there had been many

objections. Some of the objectors had suggested that an inland sewage treatment works would be more appropriate, but failed to explain how the treated sewage, which would still fail to meet the bacteriological standards, could be disposed of in the absence of a long sea outfall.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 October 1988 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

194 MEMBERSHIP

Mr Briggs reported that the Board at their meeting on 19 December 1988 had appointed Dr F S Martin to serve as a member of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee in place of the late Mr R D Houghton for the period ending 30 September 1989.

195 FISHING LICENCE DUTIES - 1990

Mr Barnes advised members that when the Board considered its budget and charges for 1989/90, it had recommended that fishing licence duties be increased by an average of 7% and had asked this Committee for its observations. Whilst it was difficult to argue with proposed increases which were in line with inflation, the policy of rounding increases to the nearest 50p whilst, at the same time, maintaining a ratio of 4:2:1 between season, concessionary, and seven day licences made it impossible to establish an exact 7% increase and the figures put before the Committee provided the nearest solution.

Mr Neal, supported by other members representing coarse fishing interests, pointed out that the increase in cost of the coarse fishing licence was much greater than the proposed 7%. Although the officers confirmed that increases would equalise over a number of years, it was suggested that a straight forward 7% increase on all licence duties or, alternatively rounding to the nearest 10p would be more appropriate.

In response to a question from Mr Holland about future income from fishing, Mr Barnes admitted that although this Committee would continue to be consulted about licence duties, it was not yet known how licences would operate in the future. The bulk of fisheries expenditure in this region was paid for from the environmental service charge which was being discontinued and it had been suggested that replacement of this charge by a form of precept similar to the land drainage precept would ensure regional control of income.

Mr Haggett advised members that the estimated income resulting from these proposals would total £551,000 in 1990 and the average increase would be slightly in excess of 7% because of the problems caused by rounding etc.

RESOLVED:

That the annual fisheries liaison meetings be held in April and that the representatives at those meetings be asked to comment on the proposed fishing licence duty increases so that their comments may be taken into consideration by this Committee at its meeting on 22 May 1989 when it formulates its observations for the Board.

196 OMBUDSMANS REPORT - FINDING OF MALADMINISTRATION

Members noted an Ombudsmans reported which suggested that injustice had been caused by maladministration in connection with the allocation of Solway haaf net licences for 1988. Mr Barnes said that the Authority disagreed strongly with the Ombudsmans findings but nevertheless had provided a remedy for the complainant.

197 NET LICENCES ALLOCATION CRITERIA

Members were advised that the licences allocation group had experienced difficulty this year when considering net licence applications from fishermen with similar backgrounds in areas where net limitation orders were in force. Because of this the officers had tried to draw up criteria which would identify priorities in future years.

Dr Martin suggested that the criteria presented to the Committee could be improved in order to avoid future claims of misunderstanding or maladministration; the main thing was to be seen to be allocating licences fairly.

Mr Barnes said that it was necessary to maintain a certain amount of flexibility when dealing with licence applications but that Dr Martin's suggestions would be taken into consideration by the officers when re-drafting the allocation criteria.

198 RENEWAL OF LUNE AND WYRE NET LIMITATION ORDER

The Committee were advised that the Lune and Wyre Net Limitation Order would expire on 6 December 1989 and that the officers believed that, with minor amendments, the Order should be renewed for a further 10 years.

In response to a question about the possibility of the Lune nets mesh size being increased to match those used on the river Ribble, Mr Barnes said that the restrictions on Ribble nets had been introduced at a time when Ribble fish catches were virtually nil and that this very special restriction was unlikely to be extended to the Lune.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board be asked to authorise the Secretary and Solicitor to commence the appropriate statutory procedures for renewal of the existing Lune and Wyre Net Limitation Order

with the following amendments:-

(a) deletion of all references to the river Wyre.

(b) inclusion of the following clause:-

"In allocating licences under this Order, the Authority shall take into consideration any representations made by any local body representing the interests of net fishermen, and any other relevant considerations".

199 HONORARY BAILIFFS

The Committee noted a report which indicated that the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 had more clearly defined the manner in which constables were required to carry out their duties. The effect of this was that honorary bailiffs had needed to be trained and the rules and performance standards under which those bailiffs operated had needed to be more clearly stated and maintained. As a result, it was intended not to renew the warrants of any honorary bailiffs who fail to carry out their instructions or duties properly.

200 FISH MORTALITY INCIDENTS

Mr Newton informed members that he had received two requests for information concerning fish mortalities; Mr Neal had asked for information about a mortality on the river Goyt and Mr Brown had asked for information about incidents on the river Ribble. In the case of the Ribble the local press referred to the incident as a "tragedy" but this was not borne out by investigations. Mr Brown said that the matter had been discussed at the Lancashire Fisheries Consultative Committee and several members of the Committee, supported by a representative from Northern Anglers, had suggested that fishing in the Ribble had deteriorated. Mr Brown said that the deterioration might not stem from one particular incident but was more of a gradual deterioration over several years. He asked whether a survey could be carried out to assess the fish population in the river.

Mr Newton explained the difficulties of surveying a river as big as the Ribble and Dr Harpley added that the Authority now had a pollution officer based at either Preston or Bamber Bridge whose specific task would be to look after the Ribble and adjacent catchments so that, in future, pollution incidents could be more rapidly dealt with.

Mr Newton then explained that the Authority had received a letter from a firm of solicitors acting on behalf of the local fishing club about the pollution on the river Goyt which had resulted from damage to a sewer. After briefly explaining the incident, Mr Holland said that everybody would be happy if the lost fish, which had been purchased from the Authority in the first place, could be replaced, but nobody seemed to be able to make any progress. He also expressed concern that the Authority had allowed the sewage from the damaged sewer to be pumped into the stream

which led to the river Goyt. Mr Bailey added that a Water Authority pumping station on the river Weaver at Winsford had been pumping raw sewage into the river for 2 years and that despite constant reports no action had been taken other than inspection of the pollution.

Mr Newton agreed to look at both these incidents but pointed out that although the Leyland Fish Farm had been established in order to provide replacement stock for pollution incidents, payment for any fish used for restocking must lie with the polluter and not with the fisheries department.

201 FISHERY BYELAWS

Members discussed a report which summarised objections which had been received following publication of the Authority's proposals for fishery byelaws and were advised that the proposals had not yet been formally submitted to MAFF for confirmation because certain negotiations were still in progress. Of the 20 objections received, 3 had now been withdrawn and it was hoped that agreement would be reached in two other cases very shortly.

Dr Harpley advised members that the proposals to abandon the close season for coarse fish had identified a lack of information about the effects of abandoning the close season on bankside vegetation and wildlife and that he had discussed with the Nature Conservancy Council and the Lancashire Trust for Nature Conservation the possibility of carrying out joint investigations into that problem.

Dealing with specific byelaws, Mr Barnes said that the Authority were unhappy about the objection from Egremont & District Angling Association because they felt that the fish known locally as "smelts" were, in fact, immature migratory trout. Supporting the objection, Mr Bunting said that the Association felt that more investigation was needed before the byelaw was confirmed and added that the Association would not withdraw their objection until they saw evidence that the increase in minimum size was necessary.

In connection with byelaw 22 Mr Barnes said that the officers had altered the byelaw so that the restriction now applied to an area of water within a 5 metre radius of the entrance to or exit from a fish pass and that this amendment had been accepted by two of the five objectors. Mr Croft pointed out that even this reduced area could cause serious problems for smaller rivers or streams such as the Brock and Wyre. He agreed the byelaw was necessary for migratory fish but suggested that brown trout or coarse fish anglers would be seriously inconvenienced and suggested that the byelaw should only apply after the 1 August when migratory fish were likely to be present. His comments were questioned by Mr Newton who said that there were usually sea trout and grilse runs in May/June but agreed to look at the problem again to see whether a solution could be found in rivers where there was obviously a mixed fishery. Mr Ecroyd suggested that the problem could be easily solved by the Authority giving consent in writing to anglers wishing to fish for brown trout and coarse fish in such watercourses.

Following an objection to byelaw 25 and representations from a firm of solicitors acting on behalf of the Kent (Westmorland) Angling Association the officers accepted that it was technically possible for fish to be hooked in the outside of the mouth when certain types of fly or spinner were being used and it had therefore been decided that the proposed amendment should be withdrawn and the existing byelaw concerning foul hooked fish should remain in force.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Board be asked to authorise the Regional Fisheries Manager in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee (Mr T A F Barnes) to approve any amendments to the fishery byelaws resulting from the current negotiations, prior to their formal submission to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food for confirmation.

202 COARSE FISH TRANSFERS

Mr Irving said that coarse fishermen in the Cumbria area had claimed that fish were being netted in the Eden for transfer to fisheries in the Lancashire area and asked whether the officers could give details of fish movements at future meetings.

Mr Newton assured Mr Irving that the Authority had issued no consents for any fish removals from the river Eden nor had it carried out any netting operations on that river.

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NOTES OF A MEETINGBETWEENNORTH WEST WATERANDREPRESENTATIVES OF FISHERY CONSULTATIVE ASSOCIATIONSIN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICTHELD AT NANTWICH ON 19 APRIL 1989

Present:-

Representing North West Water

T A F Barnes
C Newton
A R Lee

Representing Lancashire

J Johnson
B J Harrison
A E Iddon
F Lythgoe

Representing Mersey & Weaver

A V Smith
D Bridgwood
G Ashbrook
C L Pickering

Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee Members

J S Bailey
A G R Brown
P Neal
Dr M Pugh Thomas

1. FISHING LICENCE DUTIES 1990

In introducing the Authority's proposals for fishing licence duties in 1990, Mr Barnes advised members that the Authority had to ensure that the gap between licence income and fisheries expenditure did not widen any further. Current licence income only covered some 24% of expenditure, whereas MAFF suggested that the minimum income from licences should be 40% of expenditure. The problem faced by the Authority was that in areas where there were enforcement

problems, the cost of fisheries would always exceed licence income but a suggested amendment to the Water Bill that policing costs be taken out of fisheries expenditure was ignored; it was hoped that a similar amendment would meet with more success during the Bill's committee stage in the House of Lords.

In response to a question from Mr Bridgwood, Mr Barnes confirmed that the costs of re-stocking after pollution incidents were recovered from the polluter in the majority of cases, including those cases which involved pollution from an Authority installation. Mr Bailey pointed out that, after being increased by 10% last year, the coarse fish licence was again to increase by 10%. He suggested that increases should be limited to direct inflation figures and that rounding should be ignored. Other speakers suggested that the Authority should go for increases every two years rather than on an annual basis, or that licence fees should be fixed nationally. In response, Mr Barnes explained that the roundings had been specifically requested by the Consultative Associations, as had the annual increases and that whilst there might be some advantages in a national licences fee, nothing had been included in the Water Bill. The fact that two successive increases had affected the coarse licence was regrettable, but the costs would even themselves out over a period of years. He concluded by reminding members that it was a fallacy that the coarse fish licence fee subsidised game fishing; if it did, then the fee for a coarse licence would be far higher.

2. FISHERY BYELAWS - PROGRESS

Mr Barnes explained that the appropriate statutory procedures in connection with byelaw applications had now been completed and the proposed byelaws had been sent to the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food for confirmation. In general terms, half of the objectors had withdrawn their objections following consultations and, in some cases, amendments to the proposals, but the remaining half would require adjudication by the Minister.

Mr Bridgwood informed the representatives attending the meeting that he had written to his Member of Parliament comparing the treatment received by objectors to these byelaws and the response to his objection to the Lead Shot Byelaw last year.

In response to a question from Mr Lythgoe who suggested that a recent NFA paper suggested that 90% of anglers wanted to retain a close season for coarse fish, Mr Newton pointed out that the proposed byelaw simply removed the statutory close season from certain waters whilst allowing the clubs who used those waters to establish their own close seasons on dates which they considered to be more appropriate.

3. FISHERIES STAFF APPOINTMENT

Mr Barnes spoke briefly about the way in which the National Rivers Authority had been set up in the North West. He told representatives that Dr Harpley, the former Regional Fisheries

Manager, would be the Manager in charge of the region, and the unit would eventually be housed in the former Richard Fairclough School in Warrington.

Mr Brown, supported by other representatives, said that the Angling press had suggested that discharge consent standards were to be lowered in order to make the PLC a better prospect for prospective shareholders and asked was there any truth in this statement when it was known that the EEC were trying to lift standards. In reply, Mr Barnes said that Lord Crickhowell the Chairman of the National Rivers Authority had said that there would be no lowering of standards, but this did not mean that automatic prosecutions would follow pollution incidents. Prosecution might not be appropriate if the polluting company showed that they were actively determined to correct the problem, but if further pollution took place then the NRA would probably prosecute. As far as sewage works were concerned, cash constraints in recent years meant that water authorities could not possibly meet consent conditions 100% of the time but the NRA would be looking at those plants which did not meet the conditions and assessing the PLC's programme for improvements.

Mr Bridgwood asked the NRA to monitor this "grey" area very carefully, because a succession of direct questions to Ministers in the House of Commons had not been fully answered and Ministerial statements appeared to be deliberately vague. He asked that the representatives receive feedback on any proposals to lower consent standards.

4. LEYLAND FISH HATCHERY

After briefly outlining the reasons for the establishment of the fish hatchery at Leyland, Mr Lee told representatives that to date the hatchery had produced chub, carp, barbel, tench and roach, and that the lagoons which were completed in November 1988 currently held carp, chub and tench broodstock.

In response to a request from representatives Mr Lee agreed that arrangements could be made for a visit to the hatchery but that there would have to be a limit on numbers.

Mr Newton advised Mr Johnson that although the hatchery was there to provide fish for re-stocking following pollution incidents, some fish would be available for sale to clubs in due course, but that the Authority was currently trying to build up a broodstock. Eventually it was hoped that hatchery income would cover expenses.

5. RIVER RIBBLE

Mr Johnson said that a survey by three anglers had suggested that the quality of fishing on the rivers Ribble and Wyre had declined and that fishermen were angered by Water Authority comments which said that there was no pollution in the river and few dead fish.

He asked whether the Authority could carry out a survey of the rivers Ribble and Wyre and whether the rivers could be re-stocked in order to bring them back to the standards experienced a few years ago.

In reply, Mr Newton said that the chances of getting meaningful results from a survey of the Ribble were very small, because the river was too big. He added that studies of tagged fish had shown that shoals of fish tend to migrate over large areas so that such shoals could quite easily be in another section of river when the survey took place. He then explained the difficulty of identifying the number of fish needed to re-stock a river, particularly when the NRA assessment of fish mortality was far less than the anglers assessment of the situation.

After considerable discussions concerning specific incidents and comparing them with suggestions that a steady decline over a period of years was more important, Mr Barnes said that the apparent lack of fish fry was important because the fry might have been killed by incidents which did not affect mature fish. Mr Newton added that additional resources had been allocated to the Ribble area in the form of a pollution inspector so that incidents could be identified quickly; the Authority needed to know quickly of any incident so that they could identify and track down the cause.

Mr Barnes said that there was obviously something wrong on the Ribble but at the present time it was not clear exactly what the problem was.

After discussing the possible effects of proposals to build a leisure complex at Preston Dock, Mr Barnes assured the representatives that the situation would be looked at very carefully and that whilst the Authority did not think the proposals would affect coarse fish, they might restrict the passage of migratory fish.

He agreed with Mr Lythgoe that cormorants and sawbill ducks were causing problems and said that both MAFF and the DoE were aware of the problem. Unfortunately, the only positive steps the Authority could take was to talk to the RSPB to make them aware of the situation.

6. ABSTRACTIONS AND DISCHARGES

After Mr Barnes had confirmed that abstractions and discharges would be controlled by the NRA after privatisation, Mr Brown said that the National Anglers Council sent copies of every application to the Association, but it was difficult for the Association to identify the overall situation.

In reply, Mr Barnes said that applications for abstractions had to be looked at in the light of those already existing but that a more common problem for the Authority resulted from consent standards being exceeded. Although Mr Johnson had suggested that many discharges were not monitored, Mr Barnes said that all suspicious discharges were regularly monitored and were re-examined frequently.

7. NETTING AND DEWATERING ON CANALS

Mr Brown suggested that there was insufficient control over dewatering by British Waterways Board and gave a recent example of an incident at Withnell Fold. Mr Lee said that the Authority had good co-operation with British Waterways Board Managers but admitted that co-operation with subordinate staff needed to be improved. He added that the Authority had moved 20,000 fish upstream during the Withnell incident.

Mr Pickering said that a liaison meeting had been held recently at Northwich and that he was of the opinion that co-operation would improve as a result of that liaison. The next meeting was scheduled for 13 October and he hoped that the Authority would send a representative to the meeting.

8. EQUIPMENT LOAN AND GRANT SCHEME

Mr Neal asked whether the equipment loan and grant scheme operated by North West Water would continue under the NRA and whether the scheme could be publicised. Mr Newton replied that there had been no pressure on the NRA to abandon the scheme which was supported by part of the licence fee. Grants had increased in recent years but there had been little take up of the equipment loan scheme so he would like to see the money allocated to the scheme transferable to either the grant or the equipment so that it was not lost at year end. He added that equipment was not on loan at the present time due to the SVC problem.

Mr Lee told representatives that although there was no evidence of SVC in this area, samples taken from two sites which were positive last year were currently being analysed.

9. GENERAL MATTERS

1. In response to a question from Mr Johnson, Mr Barnes told representatives that capital projects were ongoing on the rivers Douglas, Calder, Wyre, Yarrow and Roch.
2. Mr Johnson said that Southport Angling Club had expressed concern at the deterioration of fishing in the Crossen system and suspected that the water was being polluted by birds at Martin Mere. In reply, Mr Newton said that the Crossen system was subject to the same monitoring as other parts of the area but promised to look into this particular problem.
3. It was suggested that Warrington Angling Club had been trying for some time to obtain a seven year lease of Walton Reservoir. The Authority representatives were asked whether there was any chance of this Lease being granted before privatisation of the water authorities.

Mr Barnes said that it was unlikely that the fisheries representatives would be able to help in any way; reservoir leases were controlled by the Estates Department and the Water Authority was currently trying to keep all options open pending privatisation, so it was unlikely that they would be prepared to commit the PLC to a seven year lease.

NOTES OF A MEETING
BETWEEN
NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY
AND
REPRESENTATIVES OF FISHERY CONSULTATIVE ASSOCIATIONS
IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT
HELD AT COCKERMOUTH ON 24 APRIL 1989

Representing North West Water Authority

T A F Barnes
C Newton

Representing Esk and Liddel

T Potts
Mrs A Dobie

Representing South and West Cumbria

C Fisher
E Wright
S G Payne

Representing Eden and District

J Thompson
R Tinkler
R Mason

Regional Fishery Advisory Committee Members

P Ecroyd
F Bunting

1. FISHING LICENCE DUTIES

Mr Barnes reminded representatives that the fishing licence duties were increased each year, generally in line with inflation and were rounded to the nearest 50p as requested at previous liaison meetings. Although some licences would increase by more than

others, over a period of years the percentage increases tended to equal out.

The Authority had been under considerable pressure from MAFF not to allow the gap between fisheries income and fisheries expenditure to widen and politically it would be unfortunate if that were to happen.

The proposals were generally acceptable to the representatives at the meeting but Mr Ecroyd suggested that the difference between the full and half season licences for salmon seemed to be too great when most salmon were taken after the 1 June. Mr Barnes agreed to note Mr Ecroyd's comments for consideration at the RFAC meeting in May.

After Mr Briggs had given details of the most recent licence sales figures, Mr Newton confirmed that riparian owners could take out general licences to cover the waters under their control but was unable to give details of price because such licences were individually costed.

Mr Barnes was asked whether the Authority would introduce a three day ticket and said that although this had been discussed, its implementation would probably result in a fall in income because most holiday makers were prepared to purchase a seven day licence which seemed to be reasonably priced.

2. FISHERY BYELAWS -PROGRESS

After Mr Barnes had explained the procedure for obtaining confirmation of byelaws, Mr Thompson said that, having objected to Byelaw 1, he had been advised that that particular byelaw had already been approved by the Minister in Spring 1988. Mr Newton explained that the byelaw had originally been submitted in 1981 but had not been confirmed until 1988, when the date had been altered to conform with the close season on the Scottish side of the Solway by the Ministry. The Authority had no alternative but to print the new byelaw as confirmed by the Minister, but because of the amendment had advised the Solway Haaf Netsmens Association that the new dates would not be enforced until the byelaw had been reconsidered and confirmed as part of the current byelaw review. Mr Barnes agreed with Mr Thompson that if the close seasons were to be brought into line, it would be logical to make the weekly close times the same, adding that the Authority was still under pressure to do this, although any such proposal would probably be vigorously resisted by English netsmen. He also agreed that there were problems in identifying the boundary in the Solway but said that this Authority had no power to decide where a national boundary lay and that the Government appeared to be unwilling to take any action in this matter. Mr Bunting complained that Byelaw 25 did not appear to have been properly altered as a result of objections but Mr Newton confirmed that the appropriate amendments had been made and that the new byelaw would be no different to the existing byelaw.

After Mr Newton had advised representatives that the interpretation of the word "tide" meant the period between two consecutive high or low waters, a considerable discussion took place on the effect of the Byelaw 19 proposals to increase the size of takeable migratory trout. It was suggested that one of the main problems was one of nomenclature whereby migratory trout were occasionally wrongly identified as other separate species, but the representatives generally agreed that the proposed increase to protect immature migratory trout was justified.

3. FISHERIES STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Mr Barnes drew members attention to the list of fisheries staff and map of fisheries districts attached to their papers and said that after privatisation the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee would remain as a statutory committee of the NRA and that, hopefully, the fisheries liaison meetings would continue. Mr Bunting expressed the representatives confidence in the fisheries staff employed by the Authority and complimented them in the way their duties had been carried out over the years.

4. ANGLERS CATCH RETURNS

Mr Mason said that this matter had been discussed by Eden District Fisheries Association whose general feeling was that the small percentage of catch returns which were submitted would be further reduced if those returns required more information. He suggested that many anglers did not keep records of their fishing efforts and that the response to these requests was likely to be sketchy.

Accepting the point about the poor percentage of returns, Mr Barnes advised representatives that this request for further information had come from MAFF to try and make fisheries record more realistic. The proposal had resulted in more objections than any of the other byelaws but was something about which we had no choice. The Government had set up a special committee to deal with problems concerning salmon and this request for additional information had come from that special committee. Mr Mason indicated that he was always prepared to add a few hours to his return because "Allah" says that the number of days a man spends fishing will not be deducted from his lifespan!

Mr Ecroyd said that with the River Caldw being opened up as a new migratory river, it was felt that the size of hooks which anglers were allowed to use was very important because the Caldw was a shallow, clear river and "snatching" would be particularly easy. He suggested that a byelaw was needed to control fishing on the Caldw and various suggestions concerning hook sizes and types of fishing were discussed. In reply, Mr Barnes said that the Authority's present policy was not to dictate methods of fishing provided those methods were not illegal. Any changes would have to be advertised and because MAFF approval would be required, there would have to be an excellent reason why these restrictions should apply to the Caldw and not to other small clear rivers in the

region. He suggested that the problem might be overcome by the Authority talking to riparian owners who could make their own rules which they could then enforce. It was then suggested that the removal of the exclusion clause in existing Byelaw 21 might provide the necessary safeguards and Mr Barnes agreed to draw this matter to the attention of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee as a possible conservation measure.

5. NCC PROPOSALS FOR "WET LAND RESERVE" ON UPPER SOLWAY

Mr Ecroyd said that the Eden Owners Association, during their normal course of business, had become aware of this proposal by the Nature Conservancy Council whose Secretary had indicated that the proposal would have no effect on either netsmen or anglers. He suggested that the Water Authority should contact the NCC seeking confirmation that fishermen would not be affected, referring specifically to proposal No 10 which referred to the killing of any animal, including fish.

Mr Newton said that NRA representatives would be meeting the conservation lobby on 25 April; he would raise this matter with them and would reply to Mr Thompson and Mr Ecroyd as soon as he had their reply.

6. A66 ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Mr Ecroyd said that the Eden District Fisheries Association were worried about the possible disturbance to spawning areas by siltage resulting from these roadworks and identified the works at Brough as being of particular concern.

Mr Barnes said the Authority would write to Cumbria County Council Highways Department seeking details about the proposals.

7. NRA FUNDING

Mr Barnes advised representatives that much thought had been given to funding of the NRA. He said that the Environmental Services Charge would be replaced by a Direct Treasury Grant and other income would come from fishing licences, charges to abstract or discharge and from fishery rates which would, in future, go to the NRA rather than the local authority. He felt that the NRA would be a great success for fisheries if it was correctly funded and said that fishery representatives had been assured time and time again by Government spokesmen that funding would be adequate. In response to a question from Mr Potts, he confirmed that although fishery rates would go to a salmon fishery board in the Scottish area, in the case of the Border Esk the rates would be payable to the NRA.

8. SITING OF SILOS

In response to a question about whether the Authority were consulted when silos were being built, Mr Newton said that farmers

were not obliged to consult the Authority and that the Authority had no power to stop them building; all the Authority could do was to draw their attention to problems which were likely and the possible consequences, for them, of any pollution incident. Farms and industrial premises were regularly visited by Authority staff and where recommendations had been ignored and pollution followed, the Authority could produce those recommendations as evidence in Court and a heavier fine would usually be imposed.

Mr Barnes confirmed that in general terms, there was no form of planning control for silage, middens etc.

9. BYELAWS

Several members said they had experienced difficulty in obtaining copies of fishery byelaws from local tackle dealers.

Mr Newton confirmed that once new byelaws had been approved by the Minister copies would be freely available from all the usual outlets. He suggested that no useful purpose would be served by having expensive re-prints of existing byelaws which might be replaced in the very near future.

0613b BJB/SA

NOTES OF A MEETING

BETWEEN

NORTH WEST WATER AUTHORITY

AND

REPRESENTATIVES OF FISHERY CONSULTATIVE ASSOCIATIONS

IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT

HELD AT GRANGE OVER SANDS ON 28 APRIL 1989

Present:-

Representing North West Water

T A F Barnes
C Newton
C Durie

Representing Lune & Wyre

J C Matthews
R A Challenor
L Clark

Representing Furness & South Cumbria

G B Lawson
R Harper
A Hutton

Representing Ribble

Dr R B Broughton
K B Spencer
W J Wood

Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee Members

R Bailey
J H Fell
Dr F S Martin

1. FISHING LICENCE DUTIES 1990

Mr Barnes advised members that in previous years the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee had recommended that proposed increases in fishing licence duties should be discussed by the

Fisheries Liaison Meetings prior to consideration by the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee at its meeting in May. He pointed out that, in recent years, MAFF had questioned the gap between fisheries income and fisheries expenditure and said that the Authority had to be seen to be keeping the gap as narrow as possible. Arrangements for rounding increases to the nearest 50p had caused some difficulties that had resulted in the costs of some licences increasing by more than the standard percentage increase recommended by the Board but said that increases should "even out" over a period of years.

The recommendations were generally considered to be acceptable by the representatives at the meeting.

2. FISHERY BYELAWS - PROGRESS

Mr Barnes explained that there had been some delay in dealing with the objections to the byelaw proposals submitted by the Authority but that all the consultations had now been completed and the byelaws had been submitted to the Ministry for confirmation.

Dr Broughton suggested that sea trout and grayling should be added to paragraph 3 of Byelaw 19 and Mr Newton agreed to look at this suggestion and discuss it with MAFF.

The meeting then considered Dr Broughton's proposals that gravid fish should be returned to the water if taken and noted that this particular point was covered by the 1975 Act. It was accepted that Dr Broughton's arguments were valid but that problems might occur when the Authority tried to convince MAFF that the proposals were justified because, in theory, any fish which left the sea could be called gravid. Dr Broughton agreed that little could be done about this problem at the present time, but suggested that the matter be reconsidered when the 1975 Act was next reviewed.

Mr Challenor asked whether there was any possibility of a byelaw giving discretionary power to Associations to withdraw fishing facilities under certain circumstances. In reply Mr Barnes said that flexibility was not allowed but that it might be advantageous if fishery owners could be persuaded to introduce their own rules which they could then enforce. He agreed that the Water Authority might be prepared to do this on their own fisheries as an example to others but Mr Durie pointed out that a similar exercise some two years ago resulted in a substantial financial loss to the Authority although it was considered that the restrictions were justified. Unfortunately, apart from one or two clubs, support for the Authority's lead had been minimal.

3. FISHERIES STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Mr Barnes briefly described the arrangements for the North West Unit of the National Rivers Authority and said that Dr Harpley, the former Regional Fisheries Manager, would be the Manager in charge

of the Region, and that Mr Newton had replaced Dr Harpley as Regional Fisheries Manager. The Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee would continue to operate as a Statutory Committee, and whilst the informal liaison arrangements set up by North West Water were not covered by any part of the Water Bill, such meetings were considered to be so valuable and important that the Authority hoped that they would continue.

The boundaries of the North, Central and Southern areas of the Region had altered slightly because it had been decided that the boundaries for each function should be the same.

Lists of staff appointed to the areas had been included with the papers sent to the representatives who were advised orally of appointments made since despatch of the papers.

4. RIVER LUNE ABSTRACTION - ABBEYSTEAD

In response to a question from Mr Challenor, Mr Durie advised representatives that, following the Abbeystead disaster, a temporary Order had required flow in the pipes to be fully maintained and abstraction of about 4½ million gallons a day of water had been authorised. That arrangement had ceased recently and had been replaced by an operational procedure whereby the pipe remained full of water even when no pumping was taking place, the water being changed from time to time to avoid stagnation and other problems.

Mr Durie confirmed that the pumping station on the Lune had not operated for five months because the Water Authority had been utilising other supply sources, and it was thought unlikely that pumping would start until after the end of May.

In the normal course of events it was intended that abstraction at Abbeystead would follow the normal rules, but the special rules would apply during periods of drought, etc. In the meantime, the valve house at Abbeystead had been substantially rebuilt but had not been re-roofed.

5. BAILIFFING STAFF ON THE RIVER LUNE

Mr Durie advised representatives that vacancies for two bailiffs on the River Lune were currently being advertised. They had arisen as a result of the ill-health retirement of one bailiff and the promotion of a second bailiff and if either of the posts was filled by an internal candidate, further vacancies might be generated elsewhere.

After briefly discussing the system of reserve and honorary bailiffs operated by the Authority, Mr Clark suggested that the rate of pay for reserve bailiffs was insufficient in view of the unsocial hours they were required to work. Mr Barnes reminded Mr Clark that the Authority were conscious of the low payment but

added that this was not a commercial transaction but merely a token payment in recognition of their valuable services. Mr Newton added that the problem facing the Authority was that the total money available for the scheme was fixed so that the number of hours the Authority could buy depended very much on the rate of pay per hour given to the bailiffs. An increase in the hourly payments would result in a reduction of the number of hours worked.

Mr Clark disagreed with a representative who suggested that local police provided little assistance to bailiffs. Mr Durie said the matter should be considered in two parts; no matter how willing the police might be, through no fault of their own their fieldcraft left something to be desired, but they were of great assistance to Authority bailiffs in circumstances where a visual presence rather than concealment was the aim, for example, when it was necessary to stop and search vehicles on the public highway,

6. OPERATION OF FORGE WEIR FISH TRAP

Mr Durie advised Mr Challenor that the works at Forge Weir were almost completed and that fish counting in the Lune should commence within a month.

For some time the Authority had been carrying out a fish counter validation exercise because of disquiet about the accuracy of existing fish counters, for example, when fish of similar size had been recorded as different sizes. Officers believed that this problem of size identification was caused by the distance of the fish from the counter so the equipment at Forge Weir would identify exactly where that fish was in the water. The facilities would make allowances for fish which moved backwards and forwards across the weir, and whilst absolute accuracy was impossible to achieve, the new facilities would put the Authority at the forefront of fish counting technology.

It was the Authority's intention to use the fish trap outside the fishing season to collect broodstock for stripping. It would also be used as a scientific tool so that the fish counter records could be compared with the actual fish in the trap.

7. POLLUTION

Mr Spencer said that current pollution in the River Ribble was particularly high and that reports from the Clitheroe Times and the Lancashire Evening Post had suggested that a survey carried out by Preston Borough Council had shown the condition of the water to be "horrific".

In reply, Mr Newton said that there were certainly some anomalies on the River Ribble, but that if pollution was as bad as was suggested, fish catches would be considerably lower than the returns showed. The main problem was that the survey carried out by the Council was looking at types of pollution which affected

humans but did not necessarily affect fish. There were various pollution problems in the estuary but they did not stop the fish from going upstream where the river was of top quality and where the river biota was satisfactory. Unfortunately, there were indications that the fish population in some higher tributaries of the Ribble had declined and officers suspected that isolated pollution incidents which were insufficient to register when samples were taken were sufficient to affect the fish population. However, this evidence of the declining fish population in some upper tributaries of the river did not manifest itself in rod catches, which were increasing.

After considering the catch returns for the Rivers Lune and Ribble it was admitted that the absence of details concerning fishing effort reduced the value of the figures. Mr Barnes said that the only returns which could be regarded as official were those made in accordance with the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act but it would help the Authority if fishery owners and associations could give accurate figures of fish caught in waters under their control. He acknowledged that some owners were reluctant to do this in case the figures were used to establish fishery rates but said the Authority would be happy to receive figures which identified catches without detailing the locations of those catches. Various members said that they were prepared to do this but they were not prepared to provide information if it was not to be used.

8. METHODS OF FISHING

Mr Barnes told representatives that the Authority were not prepared to tell owners or Associations how they could fish for salmon; certain methods which were illegal were covered by the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act and all other methods, however palatable or otherwise, were legal.

Members agreed that the main problem was not illegal methods but unsportsmanlike behaviour by anglers, (some of whom were described as fishmongers because of the number of fish they were taking) which was morally unacceptable.

9. POACHING

Mr Durie briefly outlined Authority successes in connection with poaching offences on the tidal part of the River Ribble, specifically mentioning three cases where the fines totalled £450, £575 and £750 respectively. In response to a question from Dr Broughton about the possibility of organising seminars for magistrates, Mr Newton confirmed that such seminars were ongoing and were designed to keep magistrates up to date with the regulatory aspects of fisheries work.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) In response to a question from Mr Wood about fisheries rates, Mr Barnes said that the only thing which was clear was that, in future, fisheries rates would go to fisheries interests rather than to the local authorities, but whether this meant that the money would go to the National Rivers Authority or to the Treasury (who would be paying grants to the NRA) was not clear at this stage.
- (ii) Mr Lawson asked Mr Newton whether the Authority had sought funding for liming in the Duddon catchment area. In reply, Mr Newton said that the project was a DOE investigation into acid rain, part of which had been carried out by the Authority. A report had been sent to the DOE suggesting how the problem could be resolved and the Authority would continue to monitor the situation and advise the DOE should there be any recurrence of the problem.

BJB1/6

NORTH WEST WATERREGIONAL FISHERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE22 MAY 1989FISHING LICENCE DUTIES - 1990

1. As requested by Members at the meeting on 20 February 1989 the proposals for increases in fishing licence duties for 1990 were submitted for comment to the three fisheries liaison meetings.
2. Although there were no adverse comments about any of the proposals, concern was expressed at the southern area meeting that the percentage increase for the freshwater fish and eels rod licence was again greater than the standard percentage increase because of the effect of rounding. Mr Bailey suggested that increases should be limited to direct inflation figures and that rounding should be ignored, whilst other representatives felt that the increases should be every 2 years rather than annually.

At the northern area meeting Mr Ecroyd suggested that the difference between the full and half season salmon rod licence was too great because most salmon were taken after 1 June.

3. Subject to consideration of the comments from the liaison meetings, it is recommended that the Board be asked to approve the proposed increases in fishing licence duties listed in the attached report and authorise the Secretary and Solicitor to carry out such statutory proceedings as may be necessary to obtain the approval of the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Food to the proposed increases.

NORTH WEST WATER
REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
20 FEBRUARY 1989
FISHING LICENCE DUTIES - 1990

1. On 13 February 1989 the Board considered its budget and charges for 1989/90. Amongst the items considered was a recommendation that fishing licence duties be increased by an average of 7% and this Committee was asked for its observations on this recommendation.
2. Members will recall that, following three consecutive increases of 5% p.a. between 1985 and 1988, duties were raised by an average of 10% for the current year, in the light of Ministerial comment concerning the fall in the level of recoupment i.e. the proportion of direct fisheries expenses recovered from licence duties. At present it is too early to gauge the effects of this increase on the level of sales. An average rise of 7% in licence duties for 1990 would reflect the increase in direct expenses and would therefore maintain the present level of recoupment.
3. The policy has been adopted in recent years of rounding increases to the nearest 50 pence while, at the same time, maintaining a ratio of 4:2:1 between season, season concessionary and 7 day licences. If this formula is to be preserved, neither the increase in individual duties nor the overall increase can be an exact 7% but the following proposals provide the nearest solution:-

	<u>Present Duties</u> £	<u>Proposed Duties</u> £
<u>SINGLE ROD & LINE (whole area)</u>		
1. Salmon		
Season	32.00	34.00
Part Season from 1 June	24.00	26.00
Season concessionary	16.00	17.00
Part season concessionary	12.00	13.00
Seven day	7.75	8.50
2. Migratory Trout		
Season	13.00	14.00
Season concessionary	6.50	7.00
Seven day	3.25	3.50

	<u>Present Duties</u> £	<u>Proposed Duties</u> £
3. Non-migratory trout (brown trout, rainbow trout and char)		
Season	5.50	6.00
Season concessionary	2.75	3.00
Seven day	1.75	1.75
4. Freshwater fish and eels		
Season	4.50	5.00
Season concessionary	2.25	2.50
Seven day	1.25	1.25

COMMERCIAL EEL FISHING

Fixed eel traps (per trap p.a)	48.00	51.00
Eel or Fyke nets (per net p.a)	1.00	1.00
Traps, putcheons or baskets (per 25 or part thereof p.a)	10.00	11.00

NETS AND FIXED ENGINES

(Area within the boundaries of the former Cumberland River Authority)

Whole area drift, hand or whammel net (not exceeding 275m in length when wet)	203.00	217.00
Whole area heave or haaf net	40.00	43.00
River Eden coop	189.00	202.00
River Derwent coop	422.00	452.00
South West Cumberland garth	210.00	225.00

	<u>Present Duties</u> £	<u>Proposed Duties</u> £
<u>NETS</u>		
(Area within the boundaries of the former Lancashire River Authority)		
River Ribble, drift, hang or whammel net (not exceeding 140m in length when wet)	130.00	139.00
River Lune, drift, hang or whammel net (not exceeding 300m in length when wet)	215.00	230.00
River Lune, draw, draft or seine net (not exceeding 185m in length when wet)	186.00	199.00
River Duddon, draw, draft or seine net (not exceeding 185m in length when wet)	178.00	190.00
River Lune: heave or haaf net	83.00	89.00
River Kent: lave net	97.00	104.00
River Leven: lave net	80.00	86.00

NOTE: Fishing for eels with rod and line in tidal and estuarial waters seaward of the high water mark (as defined on the Ordnance Survey Map : 1 to 50,000 series) is exempt from the licensing system.

4. Any variation of licence duties requires local consultation and public advertisement within the region and, subsequently, the approval of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.
5. It is recommended that the Fisheries Liaison meetings be asked to comment on these proposals and that their comments be taken into consideration by this Committee at its meeting on 22 May 1989 when it formulates its observations for the Board.

BJB1/7

NORTH WEST WATERREGIONAL FISHERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE22 MAY 1989OMBUDSMAN INVESTIGATION

1. At the meeting on 20 February 1989, the officers reported a finding of maladministration against the Authority by the Ombudsman following an investigation into allocation of Solway haaf net licences to former Scottish permit holders. Members were advised that a further complaint was under investigation by the Ombudsman whilst a third was anticipated.
2. The second complaint was from the father of two children who had previously held haaf net licences, but who had been refused licences following introduction of the Order because of an Authority decision not to issue licences to school children for safety reasons. After considering the Authority's response to the complaint, the Ombudsman agreed that the Authority had acted correctly and decided not to carry out a formal investigation.
3. A third complaint is now being considered by the Ombudsman. This has been submitted by two former netsmen who were excluded because of convictions for fishing offences. They have claimed that their offences were committed over 5 years ago and under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, should not have been taken into consideration when deciding allocation of licences. The Authority have submitted their comments to the Ombudsman whose response is now awaited.

0614b CH

NORTH WEST WATERREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE22 MAY 1989PROSECUTIONS FOR NETTING OFFENCES

1. Members will be aware that the officers have been negotiating with representatives from North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee to try and agree new Sea Fisheries byelaws for subsequent approval by this Committee and confirmation by the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries & Food. An oral report on the progress of the negotiations will be given at the meeting.
2. Pending completion of the byelaw negotiations, the Authority have continued to operate under the 'guidelines' agreed some years ago with the then Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries Committee, which has resulted in three successful prosecutions as follows:-

(a) Wyre Estuary

A fisherman was charged with using an illegal fixed engine and other offences at Knott End on 6 June 1988. He agreed to plead guilty to the fixed engine offence if the other charges were dropped. The case was heard at Garstang on 8 December 1988 when the fisherman was fined £300 and ordered to pay £150 costs.

(b) Ribble Estuary

On 11 June 1988 a fisherman was charged with using an illegal net during the close season. At Lytham Court on 16 January he was fined a total of £350 and asked to pay £225 costs.

(c) Ribble Estuary

On 31 May 1988 a fisherman was charged with using an illegal net to take salmon and sea trout. The case was heard at Liverpool Crown Court on 24 April 1989 when the man was fined £750 and the Court ordered that his fishing equipment be confiscated and destroyed. In summing up, the Judge said that it was necessary to make examples of people caught contravening legislation for the protection of salmon and trout and that had it not been for the man's obvious contrition and the fact that it was his first offence, a custodial sentence would have resulted.

0616b BJB/ES

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEEMEETING 22 MAY 1989EEL FISHING RIVER RIBBLE ESTUARY

1. A request has been received from Mr T McKean a licensed eel fisherman to set fyke nets in the Ribble Estuary during the period ordinarily prohibited by Section 21 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 (i.e. 1 January - 25 June.) To allow fishing at this time would require the authorisation of the Water Authority and the approval of the Minister.
2. Mr McKean is a dependant fisherman who also holds a salmon draft net licence. He states that he has a guaranteed market for any eels he catches and is already fishing with baited traps as allowed by Section 21.
3. Members are asked for their views on this matter.

0615b CH

NORTH WEST WATERREGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE22 MAY 1989FISH MORTALITIES - RIVER LANESHAW AND COLNE WATER

1. The following details of the incident on 26/27 March 1989 are provided for the information of members.
2. On Easter Sunday evening a technician was called out to investigate an automatic alarm message from North West Water's Corn Close service reservoir, which serves the town of Colne. While there, he found that a pump used for caustic soda in the treatment process was not running smoothly. In an attempt to clear any blockage, he turned on a high pressure water supply for flushing. Believing the system to be working properly, he left the site. Unfortunately, he left the flushing water valve open.
3. During the night, the flushing water backed up into the caustic soda storage tanks and caused them to overflow. The retaining safety bund around the tanks, designed to contain the contents of the tanks were they to rupture, filled and the mixture of caustic soda and water overflowed and passed through the drainage system to Laneshaw Brook. The tanks contained about 1,000 gallons of caustic soda solution, most of which was washed into the river between midnight and 8.00am, when the error was detected. Caustic soda is used to adjust the pH of the water, which would otherwise be too acidic to supply.
4. Much of the aquatic life of the river perished for the first mile to Laneshaw Bridge. There was progressively less damage through Colne. Fish were mostly affected, as far down as Colne, with perhaps 5,000 trout being killed, together with many minnows, eels and other species. Readings of river water pH (alkalinity) taken by Authority river inspectors indicated that there was no risk to public health or to any children who might play in the river.
5. Biological and fisheries investigations have revealed that the River Laneshaw and Colne Water will progressively improve and fully recover within 12 months. The Authority consider it should soon be possible to begin restocking with trout in the Colne area, following biological surveys to ensure small forms of life on which fish feed have recovered sufficiently. Further restocking by the Authority, who will be consulting angling interests, will follow upstream but this will need to be more gradual. The situation will be monitored regularly as a matter of priority.
6. The Authority's investigation into this incident has concluded that the release of caustic soda to the river was a result of an error by a fully experienced technician who has now been transferred to other duties.

7. Before the incident, the plant was considered to be safe against mechanical failure and not to pose any pollution risk. The Authority are now studying what can be done to make the installation more safe against human error, and are carrying out a further series of inspections at all treatment sites to examine even the most unlikely pollution risks, including those that could arise from misoperation. The highest priority will be given to any additional safeguards that are found necessary. The Authority's already highly developed training programme is being reinforced to ensure that all operatives are fully aware of pollution risks and of safe working procedures.

NORTH WEST WATER

REGIONAL FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

22 MAY 1989

FISHING LICENCE SALES - 1988

1. For the past three years, all fishing licence sales have been recorded on computer, thus ensuring quick and accurate identification of sales trends.
2. The appendix to this report shows the number of licences sold during 1988 according to category, which is compared with figures for 1986 and 1987 and shows a considerable improvement on last year.

SALE OF FISHING LICENCES - 1988

	----- SALMON -----					-- MIG. TROUT ----			-- NON-MIG. TROUT ----			--- FRESH FISH & EEL ---			
	S/S	S/SRD	S/2	S/2RD	S/7	MT/S	MT/RD	MT/7	T/S	T/RD	T/7	F/S	F/RD	F/7	TOTAL (UNITS)
AGENTS TOTALS															
001 - 469	1977	2896	723	819	1961	1942	500	893	30820	5894	10412	36339	7676	5602	108454
EXCHANGES	7	2	7	14	16	152	24	4	603	89	14	314	69	8	1323
LIC. VALUE (£)	29.00	22.00	14.50	11.00	7.00	12.00	6.00	3.00	5.00	2.50	1.75	4.00	2.00	1.00	-----
REFUNDS	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	8	3	0	18
CONCESSIONARY	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
NUMBER SOLD	1959	720	2888	805	1945	1790	476	889	30214	5805	10398	36017	7604	5594	107104
VALUE SOLD (NEAREST £)	56811	15840	41876	8855	13615	21480	2856	2667	151070	14513	18197	144068	15208	5594	£512,650
3 YR. TRENDS															
1988	1959	2888	720	805	1945	1790	476	889	30214	5805	10398	36017	7604	5594	107113
1987	1722	2326	622	609	1465	1547	398	753	26886	5307	9723	31456	6913	4505	94232
1986	1720	2012	612	570	1332	1689	470	679	24938	4924	8964	33136	7782	3994	92822